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FBI Reportedly Disciplined Two

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Disciplinary action was quietly taken several months ago against the two FBI agents who were in charge of the Lee Harvey Oswald case in Dallas and New Orleans prior to the assassination, The Times Herald has learned.

Unimpeachable sources said the moves resulted in the demotion of the Dallas agent and the ordered transfer of the man in New Orleans. The agent there refused to take the disciplinary transfer, however, and quit the FBI.

The Dallas man supervised the section known as a "desk" in FBI parlance. Under his jurisdiction came such persons as Oswald, as a former defector to Russia.

The New Orleans man, who now works as an investigator for a private firm, was assigned to the Oswald case while Oswald lived in New Orleans.

The actions against the two agents, both veterans of more than 20 years government service, reportedly occurred sometime in late spring. The FBI, as is its normal practice, has made no announcement concerning them.

J. Gordon Shanklin, special agent in charge of the Dallas FBI office, was out of the city Tuesday. His representative in Dallas said the FBI had no comment on the story.

An FBI official in Washington confirmed the "no comment" when questioned by the Washington Bureau of The Times Herald.

The New Orleans man, reached by The Times Herald in New Orleans Monday, also declined comment. He confirmed only that he had been employed by Southern Research Co. there since May 1, the day he left the FBI.

The Dallas agent, as a supervisor, was on the second level of command in the Dallas FBI office behind the special agent in charge and the assistant special agent in charge.

Special Agent James Hosty, who was the agent directly assigned to the Oswald case in Dallas, worked under his direct supervision.

RETURNED TO DUTIES

Since the demotion, he has returned to duties as a regular agent handling routine out-of-the-office investigative chores. Another agent was promoted to replace him as supervisor.

The demotion meant a drop in pay of more than $1,000 a year for the Dallas agent.

On Nov. 22, and for several years before that, he was in charge of internal subversion investigations in the Dallas office.

The New Orleans agent, as a subversion expert, conducted the New Orleans aspects of the Oswald investigation. His part in the case is mentioned on page 437 of the Warren Commission report which was released Sunday.

Sources said the FBI ordered the agent transferred to Springfield, Ill. in April, but that he declined the move. Since he had the required time to be eligible for retirement, he retired from the FBI rather than go to Springfield.

According to the Warren Report, neither agent testified before the commission nor gave descriptions.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Disciplinary action against FBI agents

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